

# Volunteer With Us!

## Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

30239 South State Rt. 53, Wilmington IL 60481  
(815) 423.6370, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/midewin>

**Did you know that Illinois is called the 'Prairie State' yet we only have 0.01% natural prairie left!?!**

As a volunteer, you can help in a major effort to restore nearly 20,000 acres into a complex and diverse prairie and enjoy 34 miles of multi-use trail. Midewin, managed by the U.S Forest Service, was established in 1996 where the former Joliet Army Ammunition Plant once operated. Together we are going from war plants to prairie plants; bombs to butterflies; and rails to trails. It is the largest open space in northeastern Illinois. Midewin (pronounced mi-DAY-win) is a Potawatomi word, honoring the Native Americans who long historically occupied this area. "Midewin" is the name for their "Grand Medicine society," a group that both healed individuals and kept the greater Potawatomi society in balance. *We have a vision of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie being a place where the people and the prairie restore each other.* We hope you can join us!



## *Earth Day Celebration: Saving native wildflowers from garlic mustard bullies*

**Saturday, April 25, 8:45am-12:30pm followed by a complimentary hotdog/veggie dog lunch.**  
**Meet at the horticulture building, at the address above, so we can caravan to the worksite.**

*Wear layered clothing and field boots. If you have your own gloves, please bring them. Midewin will provide drinking water, safety gear, tools and rubber boots, if needed. We are grateful for many helping hands; however we do have a capacity for this popular spring event. Please RSVP right away.*



Garlic Mustard is an invasive species that is rapidly taking over many woodland areas and suppressing valuable native wildflowers within years. It not only threatens native plants but all other wildlife that depends on those plants for survival. This plant produces large amounts of seed that allows the weed to spread rapidly. If that is not bad enough, it also releases toxins into the soil that inhibit other plants from growing nearby. This activity is great for a wide range of ages because we simply hand pull the invasive plants and fill up garbage bags. We can also learn about and see native spring wildflowers like Virginia bluebells, spring beauties, trout lilies, and jack-in-the-pulpits among others!

**RSVP to the Volunteer Coordinator, Allison Cisneros at [amcisneros@fs.fed.us](mailto:amcisneros@fs.fed.us) or 815.423.2149.**



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Protecting nature. Preserving life.™